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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/421,108	10/19/1999	HANS HSU	3783-4001	3647

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NIXON & VANDERHYE, P.C.
1100 NORTH GLEBE RD., 8TH FLOOR
ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714

EXAMINER

PATEL, JAGDISH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3624

DATE MAILED: 01/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/421,108
Examiner	JAGDISH N PATEL

Applicant(s)	HSU ET AL.
Art Unit	2164

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 October 2001.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 195-211 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 195-211 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This correspondence is a revised office action is in response to amendment (1) A filed Oct 26 2001 (paper 7).
2. Claims 195-211 are pending and have been examined.
3. The finality of the last Office action is withdrawn. This office action substitutes for the office action mailed 1/15/02 (paper number 8, Final Rejection)). Please note that amendments dated 2/25/02 (paper number 9) and 3/6/02 (paper number 10) which followed that final rejection (i.e. paper number 8) have not been entered.

Response to Amendment

4. The amendment filed Oct 26, 2001 is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows:
5. Amendment has been entered in part because it contains the following new matter which has been not entered:

On p.2 of the amendment para “—For example, if ...as much as they are comfortable with.—“

This paragraph is considered new matter because it further limits, by way of the cited example, the “partial satisfaction” feature presented on p.24.

6. Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments regarding application of Ucopia reference has been fully considered. However, when the claimed invention(s) are fully analyzed in view of the disclosed invention, the arguments are not convincing as explained in detail in the following paragraphs.

8. Ucopia teaches the feature of "Partial Satisfaction" as disclosed

On p. 24 of the disclosure the specification recites in part:

"...the giver can make a commitment for part of the gift amount. The registry records that partial purchase against the gift idea so that other givers, can assist with the purchase. When enough givers make commitments, the gift can be purchased. ..."

Fig. 4 details the "Partial Satisfaction" concept of the present invention where the gift price is expressed in terms of "purchase amount" and "gift amount".

Thus, the instant application does not limit expression of the "amounts" in terms of monetary units. It covers any unit that may be applied to express the amounts so far as the group purchase or partial purchase is accomplished, i.e. that the purchase amount and the gift amount are communicated to potential gift givers.

Now turning to Ucopia reference, the gift amount and the purchase amount are expressed in terms of arbitrary monetary units called "shares". Broad interpretation of "shares" is that any value can be assigned to each share, and givers can contribute any amount (i.e. any number of share including a fraction of a share) towards the gift purchase price as disclosed in the present invention. It is emphasized that the present invention fails to restrict the units of gift amounts and the purchased amounts in any

manner. Ucopia expresses the amounts in units of "shares" which represent monetary values and the amounts expressed in "shares" are monetary amounts.

Therefore, contrary to the arguments presented by the applicant, Ucopia teaches both "monitory contributions" and "giver desired portion" as recited in all present claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

9. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 195-211 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The claims recite limitation "wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the gift's purchase price". The specification fails to teach this feature as explained in previous paragraphs.

10. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

11. Claims 195-211 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

12. Claims 195-211 recite the limitation "the gift's purchase price" in line 2 p. 4 (line 4 p. 8 for claim 209) of amendment. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Dependent claims inherit this deficiency from their respective parent claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

13. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

14. Claims 195, 196, 198, 201, 204-208 and 210-214 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by "UCOPIA: Ucopia Unveils New Wedding Registry Partners;...."; Business/lifestyle Editors and Retail/Technology Writers, July 1998 (hereafter referred to as Ucopia).

15. Claims 195 and 209: Ucopia discloses a method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

Receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient ("couples can choose items from an extensive list ...to build a personalized registry"..., para 5);

Storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of , or accessible to, said gift registry computer system (this step is inherent in Ucopia, since the items chosen by the registered couples are to be presented to the potential gift givers via the gift registry);

Providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line of gift ideas (Ucopia: "guests enjoy the convenience of accessing all the selections in one place, and purchasing online.., para. 5);

Receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward the purchase of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas (Ucopia: higher-priced items may be designated for group purchases..refer to "Ucopia features" para 7, one of the features is that a gift of high price, which may be beyond "their individual budget" are selected for collective or group purchases);

Combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the current commitments towards the selected gift (since the gift(s) selected for collective purchasing are designated as such, it is inherent that a potential contributor is informed of the commitment (monetary

amount) already committed towards the gift or alternatively commitment amount still required towards the full amount of the item);

Automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitment is equal to or greater than the gift's purchase price(Ucopia instantly updates couple registries after purchases., the automatically generating purchase request step is anticipated because the registered gift is designated for purchase via the registry);

Attempting to satisfy the purchase request (see discussion of above limitation "automatically generating purchase request..));

Wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the gift's purchase price (since the gift is designated for group purchases, it is anticipated that [as in many social events where collection is solicited for a predetermined amount for a selected gift, a plurality of gift givers contribute their desired amount towards the gift item] the giver himself or herself decides what portion of the uncommitted balance of the gift's price he or she wants to commit. Ucopia web site reference under heading "How do group purchase work?" teaches that the dollar amount be specified in terms of a share each having a pre-selected dollar value and that each giver participating in the group purchase one or more share. Since the share price can be varied without limit it is anticipated that each giver can commit any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance). Furthermore, since the share price is expressed in

monetary value and since both share price and share amount can be varied as obvious variations, the givers can specify any desired monetary value towards the partial or group purchase.

All limitations of system claim 209 are analyzed as in corresponding method claim 1.

Claim 196: commitment of each giver commits to make a monetary contribution is directly specified by the giver as an amount of money (since each share represents an underlying predetermined fixed monetary amount, the giver may specify any amount of money appropriate to monetary value of a gift by specifying number of shares that represent his/her desired contribution, in other words so long as the share price of Ucopia is an alternative representation of money).

Claim 198: sending the purchase request to a supplier (inherent feature of an on-line purchase such as Ucopia).

Claim 201: receiving credit card information supplied by the gift givers that make commitments (extremely conventional method of payment and therefore anticipated for gift purchase and/or commitment of gift amount).

Claim 204-206: features of receiving cash if the total of commitments is less than the gift's purchase price, one or more gift-ideas specified by the gift recipient is associated with a recipient is associated with a recipient determined price (or vendor) (well established business practices and therefore inherent to this reference).

Claims 207-209 are analyzed as corresponding method claim 195.

Claim 210: communication network is the Internet (para 1, ..the Internet's leading gift registry..).

Claim 211: refer to claim 196 analysis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. Claims 197, 202, 203 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ucopia as and further in view of weddingchannel.com.

(Examiner's Note: Since Ucopia.com is no longer accessible, the examiner has used alternative reference weddingchannel.com for convenience. However, the features recited in claim 197 are germane to any web based gift registry.) generating one or more web pages based on gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient; and supplying the generated web pages to the gift givers in response to giver-supplied requests (refer to link "view item" next to the item listed, the giver is supplied with the web pages pertaining to the gift of interest); Ucopia fail to clearly recite the features of aforementioned claims. However, as discussed above, weddingchannel.com discloses generating web pages, supplying web pages to gift givers. It would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at time of the claimed invention to implement these steps in Ucopia.

Motivation for these features is to provide the giver all necessary information and

graphic display about the gift item so as to help him or her view the gift item and make decision towards gift purchase.

Claims 202 and 203: Utopia fails to disclose features of commitments which are contingent upon other gift givers making commitments such that the total of all commitments is equal to or greater than the price of the selected gift and gift ideas specifying a substitute options.

However, Official Notice is notice is taken that specifying substitute gift item (for example as an item of second choice) and providing cash in lieu of gift item if the gift item is unavailable or cannot be collectively purchased is old and well-known business practice. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention to implement these features because these feature would allow the givers alternative secondary choices for gift giving. Also it would ensure to the giver that the gift is received by the recipient in one or other form.

Conclusion

18. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

19. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jagdish Patel whose telephone number is (703) 308-7837. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin, can be reached at (703) 308-1038. The fax number for Formal or Official faxes to Technology Center 3600 is (703) 305-7687. **Draft faxes may be submitted directly to the examiner at (703) 746-5563.**

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113 or 308-1114. Address for hand delivery is 2451 Crystal Drive, Crystal Park 5, 7th Floor, Alexandria VA 22202.

JNP 11/30/01



HANI M. KAZIMI
PRIMARY EXAMINER